



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 7, 2008
Week Ending: July 6, 2008
CWP WA-CW2508

Summer Weather Throughout the State Aided Crop Maturation Field Crops

Days suitable for field work were 6.7. Hot and dry weather over the eastern grain growing counties continued to move grains along. The recent heat removed substantial moisture from the soil leaving growers concerned about moisture levels in summer fallow for fall planting. Whitman County reported temperatures reached 100 degrees, producing a lot of strain on newly headed grain. Grain was turning fast. The first cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete and second was going down, pushed along by the heat. Bluegrass seed harvest had begun in Spokane County with fields being laid down to dry before harvest. Christmas tree growers reported some annual needle necrosis on both Grand and Noble fir due to the previous week's thermal blast which brought temperatures into the 90s. On the west side, cannery peas continued to look very good.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, cherry harvest continued as peak harvesting activities moved towards the upper valley. Some apple thinning activities continued even as some orchard blocks were reported to be propped up due to heavy fruit set. Apple size was approaching 55–60 mm in the mid to lower valley. Skagit County reported the cabbage seed crop had formed seed pods and harvest was nearing. Strawberry harvest continued and raspberry harvest had begun while blueberries were showing some color.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 28% poor, 27% fair and 37% good. Nearly all cattle were on summer pasture. Livestock growers were culling herds due to high feed prices. Kittitas County reported rangeland conditions were rapidly drying out.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	6	37	57	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	32	57	1
Subsoil	9	39	52	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	34	59	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	4	94	1
Hay & Roughage	21	31	46	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	84	64	93	94
Winter Wheat Headed	100	97	100	100
Winter Wheat Harvested	NA	NA	2	1
Barley Headed	85	61	94	93
Potatoes Planted	100	99	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	95	93	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	NA	NA	1	3
Field Corn Emerged	98	96	99	100
Field Corn Silked	4	3	20	11
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	40	34	53	55
Dry Peas Harvested	5	1	3	6
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	95	85	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	23	14	49	51

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	6	14	39	38	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	3	16	74	7
Spring Wheat Dryland	6	20	54	20	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	26	67	7
Barley Dryland	4	11	50	35	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	53	47	0
Potatoes	0	3	27	68	2
Corn	0	2	44	53	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	6	56	38	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Temperatures were a bit cooler with the average in the 60s and the low in the 50s. Things were getting back to normal.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn growers reported rapid plant growth due to the warmer temperatures. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions for harvesting hay. Raspberry growers reported fruit was just beginning to ripen. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides for the control of aphids in Noble fir. Cannery peas continued to look very good. Home gardeners were kept busy watering plants.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: A couple of rain showers were received during the week. The rain was enough to water the crops but not enough to ruin the hay.

Mason: Rain in the amount of 0.2 inch was received. Cutting grass hay was about to begin. Many berries, including tay berries (a cross between blackberries and raspberries), were coming on.

Pierce/South King: A thunderstorm with lightning was received on Thursday night. Crop conditions looked good. There were no unusual situations to report, and no reports of crops damage were received.

Skagit: High temperature for the week averaged 71 degrees, and 0.3 inch of precipitation was recorded at the WSU Northwest Extension Center in Mount Vernon. The need for irrigation continued. Spinach seed, pea and corn plantings were complete, and potato planting was nearing completion. Raspberry harvest began.

Snohomish/North King: Thunder, lightning and heavy rain were received mid-week. Some areas received 0.75 inch of precipitation which was great for gardens, crops, and pastures. The recent warm weather caused a nice growth spurt to crops and pastures. Manure spreading continued. Strawberry harvest continued, and the first raspberries were ripe. Blueberries showed some color. Apples were sizing up, but unsprayed scab-susceptible varieties showed damage. Pasture growth was excellent.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather was getting back to normal with highs in the 70s and the lows in the 50s. Crops were being planted, and hay was being cut and harvested.

Thurston: Warmer temperatures continued to expedite crop growth. U-Pick strawberry harvest was at its peak as consumers took advantage of nearly ideal weather. Turfgrass growers continued to be challenged with keeping fields irrigated as soil moisture continued to decrease. Livestock producers applied liquid manure to harvested forage fields. Christmas tree growers reported some annual needle necrosis on both Grand and Noble fir due to the previous week's thermal blast that brought temperatures up to the 90s. Home gardeners were harvesting lettuce, onions, and radishes.

Whatcom: A mixture of sun and rain provided ideal weather conditions for optimal crop growth. Strawberry harvest continued, while the raspberry harvest was delayed due to the cool spring. Producers were working on the third cutting of grass. River flooding prevented the planting of potatoes, corn, and grass.

Central

Chelan: Sweet cherry harvest continued at full speed. Lower than usual production reduced the number of necessary pickers, so labor was adequate. While yields were much lower than normal in early areas and early varieties, the later areas and later varieties looked much better.

Kittitas: Most of the timothy hay has been harvested. With extremely high temperatures and some wind, most farmers were able to get their hay baled and stacked before the thunderstorm on July 4. Sweet corn was 24-36 inches tall and coming fast. Water supplies remained adequate. Rangeland conditions were rapidly drying out, which was expected. With the late spring many grasses may not go to seed.

Klickitat: Early in the week temperatures were in the 90s. Scattered thunderstorms with lightning were received during the week. A cooling trend gave relief from the heat by Friday, with highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s. Haying continued with some cut fields left longer on the ground than desirable. Others were quickly baled, picked up, and stacked in barns and fields. Broken bales and loose hay left in fields after harvest were gleaned by hand. The traditional date for wheat harvest is July 20. Growers with crops

on thin soils were concerned that heads will pinch with the continued heat, so they plan to start harvest in two to three weeks. Range and pastures were in poor to fair condition as grasses have seeded out and dried up. Local cherries, berries, apricots and early peaches were for sale at fruit stands.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The first cutting of hay was nearly complete. Wheat was turning color fast and was starting to get dry again.

Yakima: The week began with daily highs approaching 100 degrees, but cooled considerably as scattered thunderstorms and rain were received. The cherry harvest continued as peak harvesting activities moved towards the upper Yakima Valley. Some apple thinning was being done while some orchard blocks were propped up due to a heavy fruit set. Apple size was approaching 55-60 mm in the lower to middle Valley.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from normal to 18 degrees above normal, with 0.05 inch of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: Hot dry conditions persisted. Winter wheat harvest is just around the corner if weather conditions continue.

Asotin: Dryer, cooler conditions helped the crop mature and progress closer to harvest.

Ferry: A few scattered thunderstorms with showers interrupted the first cutting of hay.

Lincoln: Continued hot, dry winds pounded the crops. Small areas received rain with lightning received on Monday. Summer fallow moisture was still okay but there will be many hot days before seeding in September begins.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Some parts of the two counties received heavy rain from thundershowers, while other parts received no rain at all. The majority of the first cutting of hay was cut and processed into bales. Bluegrass seed was being swathed in most areas of southern Spokane County, with harvest to begin in about 7-10 days. Strawberries and early cherries were being picked. Pend Oreille County

producers will begin cutting timothy hay next week.

Stevens: Area hay producers were wrapping up the first cutting. Yields appeared to be good for the most part with strong demand for hay. Several cattle producers continued culling herds due to high feed prices. Grain crops appeared to be in good condition, but recent high temperatures dried up available soil moisture. A good rain was needed.

Walla Walla: Crops looked good. Harvest will probably start around July 14 for most of the area, sooner in the northern portions of the county.

Whitman: Heat with temperatures up to 100 degrees came to the Palouse. Scattered thunderstorms brought showers to some areas, but most of the county needs relief from the heat and additional precipitation. Crops were showing stress from the heat. Hay cutting was keeping many operations busy with high feed prices placing a higher priority on what has mainly been a secondary crop at most.

Weather Statistics
Week of June 30 - July 6, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	INCHES	DFN	TOTAL	INCHES	PCT	DAYS
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WEST															
Bellingham Intl	53	78	63	+2	92	+15	24	+10	0.34	-0.01	4	26.55	-7.24	79	164
Everett	52	76	64	+3	100	+16	30	+9	0.44	+0.10	1	32.20	-1.98	94	180
Hoquiam	53	75	60	+2	73	+6	6	-1	0.22	-0.13	2	55.08	-10.41	84	190
Kelso	55	82	66	+4	115	+27	45	+21	0.11	-0.19	2	30.93	-13.43	70	133
Olympia	50	82	65	+4	107	+26	37	+19	0.19	-0.05	3	42.37	-6.35	87	163
Seattle-Tacoma	55	82	66	+2	111	+13	41	+10	0.25	+0.02	1	33.25	-2.27	94	159
Shelton	52	77	63	-1	96	+1	26	-3	0.17	-0.11	2	55.24	-7.73	88	161
Tacoma WA AP	52	80	65	+2	105	+10	35	+7	0.11	-0.15	2	31.00	-7.34	81	147
Vancouver WA	57	87	69	+7	138	+43	68	+40	0.23	+0.00	2	35.51	-3.98	90	155
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	57	106	76	+10	183	+67	113	+64	0.10	+0.03	2	6.60	-1.76	79	65
Omak AP	51	103	76	+11	185	+75	115	+69	0.05	-0.13	1	7.30	-6.18	54	60
Stampede Pass	56	84	69	+16	131	+100	61	+61	0.03	-0.39	1	69.65	-8.37	89	186
Wenatchee	59	101	78	+8	199	+48	129	+48	0.00	-0.07	0	4.31	-3.40	56	44
Yakima AP	50	102	76	+8	182	+52	112	+51	0.05	-0.02	1	5.91	-1.56	79	59
NORTHEAST															
Colville	55	101	75	+11	177	+71	107	+66	0.21	-0.01	3	16.05	-3.41	82	118
Deer Park	51	96	72	+6	155	+37	85	+33	0.28	+0.07	1	20.02	+2.89	117	133
Republic	54	96	72	+11	158	+73	91	+64	0.09	-0.18	1	10.95	-2.95	79	98
Spokane AP	54	97	75	+9	181	+63	111	+59	0.00	-0.19	0	16.11	+0.82	105	120
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	56	102	80	+7	211	+49	141	+48	0.01	-0.08	1	4.16	-2.55	62	66
Moses Lake	58	103	79	+6	204	+42	134	+41	0.04	-0.05	1	4.26	-2.45	63	66
Quincy	55	100	78	+9	195	+58	125	+57	0.02	-0.05	1	6.63	-0.63	91	67
Ritzville	51	101	76	+9	183	+62	113	+60	0.00	-0.14	0	9.00	-1.62	85	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	57	107	82	+7	228	+48	158	+48	0.00	-0.07	0	3.79	-2.29	62	44
Pasco	60	104	80	+7	210	+47	140	+47	0.00	-0.07	0	6.81	-0.21	97	68
Pullman	52	94	72	+9	155	+60	85	+52	0.00	-0.22	0	16.65	-3.02	85	115
Walla Walla Rgn	61	101	79	+7	206	+44	136	+43	0.18	+0.04	1	13.32	-4.95	73	106
Whitman Mission	56	103	77	+9	194	+57	124	+56	0.37	+0.23	1	11.84	-0.97	92	110
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	61	105	82	+10	224	+69	154	+68	0.01	-0.18	1	7.32	-3.85	66	93

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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